

Working to protect Second Amendment rights, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11-D) and representatives of the Illinois State Rifle Association called on the United States Supreme Court to fairly and equally apply the Second Amendment to all Americans following the hearing of oral arguments in the *McDonald v. City of Chicago* case yesterday.

Halvorson was joined by Don Moran, President and Richard Pearson, Executive Director of the Illinois State Rifle Association.

Halvorson has maintained a pro-gun record since coming to Congress from the Illinois legislature. She was a signatory to an amicus brief for *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which delivered a landmark decision in favor of the Second Amendment by the United States Supreme Court. During the conference, Halvorson called on the Supreme Court to uphold the constitutional right of Americans to own a gun.

"I believe this case is about common-sense fairness. The bill of rights should apply to all Americans in our country - and I believe the Supreme Court should follow its lead from the *Heller* decision and protect the constitutional rights of gun owners," said Halvorson.

The *McDonald* case, which builds upon the *Heller* case and was heard by the court on Tuesday, will decide whether second amendment rights which apply in the District of Columbia and federal jurisdictions also apply to state and local governments. Halvorson has also signed onto an amicus brief in support of the plaintiff's Second Amendment rights in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*.

"Protecting my constituents' rights to legally and responsibly own firearms is a major priority of mine," said Halvorson. "I have a strong record of standing up and speaking out for gun owners. This Supreme Court case is important not only for the rights of gun owners, but the rights of all Americans, and it is important that those rights are protected."

The Illinois State Rifle Association was one of two organizational plaintiffs in the *McDonald* case. ISRA's Executive Director Richard Pearson said, "We were pleased with how arguments went yesterday before the Supreme Court. This is an important case for the protection of the Second Amendment, and we're confident the court is going to apply the Second Amendment in state and local jurisdictions. This case will have a lasting impact on gun rights in America."

"We were very appreciative of the support we received from Congress on this matter, including Congresswoman Halvorson's signature on the amicus brief for this case in support of gun rights. We anticipate the case should be decided by the end of June," said Moran.

The United States Supreme Court is expected to take several months before handing down a decision on the *McDonald* case.